

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 08634 032056Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00 LAB-04
SIL-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 H-01
/079 W

-----011119 040601Z /14

R 032047Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6387
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 08634

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EEC, YO
SUBJECT: EC-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS

REF: (A) COPENHAGEN 2896, (B) BRUSSELS 7334

1. AT LUNCH MAY 3 WITH DCM TOMASEVIC OF YUGOSLAV MISSION TO EC, DCM MORRIS ASKED HOW YUGOSLAVS SEE CURRENT PROSPECTS FOR NEW EC-YUGOSLAV COOPERATION AGREEMENT. TOMASEVIC REFERRED TO CONVERSATIONS WHICH SMOLE HAD WITH DANISH PRESIDENCY IN COPENHAGEN WHICH HE HAD ALSO ATTENDED, AND GENERALLY CONFIRMED REFTEL (A) REPORT.

2. AT THIS STAGE, SAID TOMASEVIC, HE WAS NOT VERY OPTIMISTIC THAT YUGOSLAVIA WOULD SUCCEED IN GETTING ANY MEANINGFUL COMMITMENTS FROM EC IN NEW AGREEMENT THAT WOULD HOLD OUT ANY REAL PROSPECT THAT BILATERAL EC-YUGOSLAV TRADE WOULD BECOME MORE NEARLY BALANCED. HE SAID THAT NEW AGREEMENT WOULD PROBABLY INCREASE CREDIT AVAILABLE THROUGH EIB, BUT THAT YUGOSLAVS COULD GET MONEY
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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 08634 032056Z

ON COMPARABLE TERMS FROM SEVERAL OTHER SOURCES, SO THERE WAS LITTLE OF INTEREST THERE. HE EXPECTS GERMANS WILL MOVE SOMEWHAT TOWARD ACCEPTING BETTER ARRANGEMENTS FOR YUGO WORKERS IN FRG (WHICH IS MAIN CONCERN OF YUGOSLAVS UNDER THIS RUBRIC). HE ALSO NOTED THAT YUGOSLAVS HAVE VIRTUALLY NO INTEREST IN INCORPORATING FISHERIES AGREEMENT INTO EC-YUGOSLAVIA FRAMEWORK

AGREEMENT UNLESS EC WERE TO COME UP WITH "SERIOUS" OFFERS ON TRADE SIDE. (OTHERWISE, HE SAID, IT WOULD BE LIKE "GRAFTING HEAD OF RHINOCEROS ON BODY OF A CHICKEN").

3. TOMASEVIC SAID HE (AND, HE IMPLIED, YUGOSLAV MINISTER IN CHARGE) WAS MAINLY SEEKING EC COMMITMENT TO CONDUCT ITS FUTURE TRADE POLICY IN SUCH A WAY THAT BETTER BALANCED BILATERAL TRADE WOULD EVENTUATE. HE IMPLIED THAT YUGOSLAVS NOW ARE LESS INTERESTED IN CONCRETE OR SPECIFIC CONCESSIONS THAN IN A "PHILOSOPHICAL" COMMITMENT THAT WILL ULTIMATELY PRODUCE RESULTS. HE SAID HE HOPED U.S. WOULD FIND OPPORTUNITY TO REITERATE ITS SUPPORT FOR MORE LIBERAL ARRANGEMENT BEFORE EC COUNCIL REVIEWED CURRENT NEGOTIATING MANDATE IN JUNE. DCM SAID HE THOUGHT EC-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS WERE LIKELY TO BE DISCUSSED ON MARGINS OF SEMI-ANNUAL U.S.-EC CONSULTATIONS MAY 25-26.
HINTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC COOPERATION, RELATIONS WITH REGIONAL ORGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRUSSE08634
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780189-1070
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS USEEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780599/aaaadgmo.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4c2db2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 COPENHAGEN 2896, 78 BRUSSELS 7334
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2809818
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EC-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS
TAGS: ECON, YO, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4c2db2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014